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Ogemaw County
SUPERIOR NEWS
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Vol. 3, Issue 18 | Your source for positive community news! | Sept 26 - Oct 9, 2026

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Northbound Sound – your one stop music store in Ogemaw County



Photo by Laura Bender

Earlier this year, Corey Kapanka opened Northbound Sound, a music store in downtown West Branch. He is pictured with his wife, Kacie, and their merry band, Charlie, 9, James, 10, Connor, 4, Juniper, 2 and Josie, 7.

BY LAURA BENDER

For local musicians, parents and anyone who has ever dreamed of learning to play an instrument, finding music lessons, equipment, rentals and repairs just became a lot easier. Northbound Sound, a locally owned music store in downtown West Branch, is bringing a wide range of musical services and more than 20 years of teaching experience to

Opened earlier this year in downtown West Branch, the store offers music lessons, gear, band and orchestra instrument rentals and repairs.

Owner Corey Kapanka describes his shop as "a locally owned music store rooted in experience, community and a love for music."

Corey has been teaching music

MUSIC continues on page 5 »

Hunters Feeding Michigan: Turning a harvest into help

BY DEANNA SURBROOK

For many Michigan hunters, deer season is about more than the excitement of the hunt. It is also an opportunity to help put food on the tables of families in need.

Through Hunters Feeding Michigan, donated venison can become nutritious meals for people across the state. Local processors play an important role in making that possible by accepting donated deer, processing the meat and helping get it to food banks and community organizations.

In Ogemaw County, there are three businesses who are part of that effort:

Klemmer's Processing
2831 S. M-76,
West Branch, MI 48661
989-345-2869

Tony's Processing
1400 Joy Bell Lane,
West Branch, MI 48661
989-345-7454

Community Cuts
2617 E. Tawas Road,
Prescott, MI 48756
989-387-2173

For hunters who choose to donate their harvest, the process is simple. Rather than taking the venison home, hunters can arrange to have their deer donated for processing. The meat is then prepared and distributed through hunger-relief organizations.

It is a meaningful way to make every successful hunt count.

For a hunter, filling a tag may mean a freezer full of meat for the family. But donating a deer can extend that harvest much farther, providing wholesome protein to families who might otherwise struggle to afford it.

One deer can help feed a family, and one hunter can make a difference.

Sledgehammers, hope and missions: Faith Alive Youth makes a difference



Courtesy photo

Jordan Waage, lead pastor at Faith Alive Church in West Branch, takes a swing at a 2013 Ford Escape during the church's recent fundraiser. The event raised $3,338 to support missionaries serving around the world.

BY PASTOR JIM WESTHEIM

Wednesday night, Sept. 16, marked a special moment for Faith Alive Youth as students hosted their first-ever car smash—an unforgettable evening filled with excitement, generosity and a shared desire to make a difference around the world.

Faith Alive Youth participates in Speed the Light, a national missions program of the Assemblies of God. Speed the Light helps provide missionaries with all types of vehicles, generators, sound systems, and other critical equipment needed to carry the good news of Jesus Christ—even to some of the most remote places on Earth.

DIFFERENCE continues on page 7 »

Mills Township appoints new supervisor

BY LAURA BENDER

On Sept. 11, at a special meeting of the Mills Township Board of Trustees, the board selected Pete Hennard to be the next township supervisor. Pete will finish out the term left vacant by the August departure of former Supervisor Bruce Beach.



PETE HENNARD

"I served as an Ogemaw County Commissioner for 14 years," Pete said. "I've attended well over 600 town council meetings, so I know what I signed up for. Right now, I'm in the discovery phase. I'm meeting with people and taking a look at all aspects of township business to be clear about how to proceed."

Pete comes to this position with many years of experience, both in local government and in business.

A 1999 graduate of Whittemore-Prescott High School, he received a bachelor's degree in business management from Northwood University in Midland. In 2004, he started his own business, Hennard Contracting LLC, which he still owns. Over the years as a contractor, he has both remodeled existing homes and built new ones. Today, his business focuses on heavy equipment mining operations for natural minerals such as gypsum and limestone.

During his decade and a half

SUPERVISOR continues on page 9 »

West Branch 41st Annual Quilt Walk
for the benefit of Rea Animal Shelter and Local Charities
October 1st, 2nd, 3rd 2026 • Thursday & Friday 11-4 • Saturday 11-3
Passports $5 Donation.
Tickets sold at 4th St. Gift Shop & Gallery and West Branch Library.
Prizes for Winners of "Peoples Choice" Votes
200 quilts on display, Quilt Raffle Bucket Raffle, Sidewalk Sale and Boutique Sale
Presented by: Rifle River Quilt Guild and West Branch Creative Arts Association
Contact Us at:
westbranchquiltwalk@gmail.com

Community Happenings

With everything changing daily, if not hourly, we would advise that you call ahead to be sure the event is still scheduled.

Ongoing

Mondays – Disabled American Veterans meet the third Monday, 5 p.m. at the VFW/American Legion Post 496 E. Houghton Ave. in West Branch. Call 989-473-3416.

Mondays – Rose City Lions Club meets the second and fourth Monday, 6:30 p.m. at the Log Cabin in the Rose City Park. Call Ed 989-387-0609.

Mondays – (Second of each month) **Coalition of Hope** 9 a.m. Meeting virtually. Suicide prevention, intervention and postvention. Call 989-345-5571.

Monday – (Third of each month, April-Dec.) **Ogemaw County Genealogical and Historical Society** 12:30 p.m. at the Trinity Episcopal Church, 100 E. Houghton Ave., West Branch. Call 989-701-2525.

Tuesdays – Kiwanis Club of West Branch meets at noon at G's Pizzeria in downtown West Branch. Call 989-345-0978.

Tuesdays – Rose City Area Historical Society meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m., April through November, except August. Meet at the Rose City Lions Club Cabin. Call Cathy 989-345-5659.

Tuesdays – T.O.P.S. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) **weigh in**from 9:40 a.m. to 10:20 a.m., meeting from 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.. Ogemaw Hills Free Clinic, 2106 S. Gray Rd. in West Branch. Call Robin 989-343-0592.

Tuesdays – (First of each month) **West Branch Creative Arts Association meeting,** 7 p.m. located at 124 N. Fourth St. in West Branch. Call 989-345-1451.

Tuesdays – (First of each month) **West Branch Area Retail Merchants Association meeting,** 6 p.m. Held at the West Branch City Police Department. Call 989-345-5226.

Tuesdays – (Second of each month) **Christian Motorcycle Association** 6 p.m. for food and fellowship, 7 p.m. business meeting at G's Pizzeria, 200 W. Houghton Ave. in West Branch. Call Gary 989-343-9876.

Tuesdays – (Fourth of each month) **Rifle River Quilt Guild** 9:30 a.m. at the K of C Hall, 601 Columbus Dr. in West Branch. The meeting will be followed by a Show and Tell, mini-classes, quilting tips, demos and time to sew. Bring your sewing machine, a project and your lunch. Any level of quilter is welcome. Call Diane 517-304-6971. We do not meet in the month of December.

Tuesdays – (Third of each month) **Cardinal Optimist Club of Skidway Lake.** Third Tuesday 5:30 p.m. at Café International, 4761 Sage Lake Rd. in Prescott. Call Janet 989-387-2640.

Tuesdays – (Second of each month) **Survivors of Suicide Support Group** 6:30 p.m. Call Vicki 989-510-0911 or *info@coalitionofhope.net* for location. National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 800-273-8255 or text 741741.

Tuesdays – (Fourth of each month) **Ogemaw County Democratic Party** 5pm at the Ogemaw County Annex Building in West Branch. Call Ken at 989-345-1066.

Tuesdays – (Fourth of each month) **Ogemaw County Republican Party** meeting 6 p.m. at G's Pizzeria in downtown West Branch. Call Kristine 989-329-3422.

Tuesday – (Last of each month) **Diabetes Support Group** 1-2 p.m. Medical Arts Center, diabetes education conference room. Call 989-343-3276.

Wednesdays – West Branch Area Business and Professional Women's Organization meets the second Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. Different locations each month. Call 989-745-4067 for information.

Wednesdays – (First of each month) **Veterans coffee hour** 9-10 a.m. Held at the Ogemaw County Commission on Aging, 1528 S. M-33 in West Branch. Call 989-345-3010.

Wednesdays – (First and third) **Grief Support Group** 6:30 p.m. Faith Alive Church, 2945 Hansen Rd. in West Branch. Open to the entire community. Call 989-345-5440.

Thursdays – (First and third of each month) **Newborn Parent Support Group** 6-7:30 p.m. My-Michgan Health - West Branch in the executive dining room. Call 800-999-3199.

Thursdays – Northern Blend Sweet Adelines meets every week 7 p.m. at Logan Township Hall, 4507 E. M-55, Prescott. Call Ellen 989-345-0978.

Thursdays – (Second and fourth) **Sit & Knit,** 1 p.m. Knitting, needlework, and friendship. Whatever you craft. Ogemaw Commission on Aging, 1528 S. M-33 in West Branch. Call Alicia 989-345-3010, ext. 201.

Thursdays – (Third of each month) **Rose City/Lupton Chamber of Commerce meets** at 6:30 p.m. at the Rose City Council Chambers. Call Carl 989-473-3268.

Thursdays – Optimist Club of West Branch meets at 7 a.m. at the Loggers Depot in West Branch. Call 989-942-6608.

Thursdays - The Ogemaw County Fair board meets the first Thursday of each month in the main building at the fairgrounds. Call 989-345-5393.

September 26

Oktoberfest, Saturday, Sept. 26, noon to 6 p.m., downtown West Branch. "Where Lederhosen Meets Laughter?"

October 5

Potato Drop, Monday, Oct. 5. In partnership with Oscoda United Methodist Church's Society of St. Andrew thousands of pounds of fresh potatoes will be delivered to the First United Methodist Church's parking lot, corner of Fairview and State roads, West Branch. It is a large-scale food rescue and hunger relief event. Once potatoes arrive volunteers are needed to help unload them and volunteer trucks to help deliver them to surrounding food pantries.

October 7

First United Methodist Church Rummage Sale. Wednesday, Oct. 7, 9 a.m., - 7 p.m.; Thursday, Oct. 8, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Friday, Oct. 9, BAG DAY. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. One paper grocery bag $1 or 3 paper grocery bags for $2. Proceeds go to missions.

October 10

Witches Night Out, Saturday, Oct. 10, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., 114 S. Valley St., West Branch. The event is sponsored by Claws and Paws Rescue and Carolyn Wilson Porth.

Whittemore-Prescott High School Art Club Trivia Night, Saturday, Oct. 10, Whittemore-Prescott High School, 6001 Mills Rd., Whittemore. Event begins at 6 p.m. with a buffet style dinner and then 10 rounds of trivia questions. Cost is $25 per person. Adults only. Tickets are available now that can be purchased from Brenda Butler at school or Venmo to @Brenda-Butler-75. The last four digits of her phone number, 9289, if required.

To place your event in the Community Happenings, email information to deanna@superior-news.com

FAITH & WORSHIP

God is love

"No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

—Romans 8:37-39 NIV

God is love. And He loves us all no matter where we are in life. God's love is unconditional. God's love is without limit. God loves us so much and his love is so deep that nothing can change his love or stop him from loving us.

God loves us in all seasons of life. God loves us every second of everyday. God loves us. God's love is permanent. God's love can never fade away.

God loves us and because of his love he cares for us. God Himself his love. God is full of love.

When I am waking up it's God loving me, God loves me in every situation and his love is always present in our lives. Even when I am not feeling well, his love is still there and yes I am not feeling well but that does not stop God from loving me, God does not want me to be in pain but his love is present to heal me of the pain. When I feel disappointed God loves me.

When I have failed God loves me. We need to start believing and accepting that God is love and he loves us deeply.

— www.SermonCentral.com

Gladwin Cornerstone Baptist Church
3925 Round Lake Road, Gladwin, MI 48624
989-426-6897
Sunday School 9:30
Morning Worship 10:30
www.gladwincornerstone.com
Pastor Scott Bradstreet

Churchill United Methodist Church
501 E. State Rd.
(corner of State and Morrison roads)
989-685-2350
Worship & Children's Sunday School: 11:30 a.m.
Rev. Helen Alford

Calvary Baptist Church
235 Minzer Ct. • West Branch
989-345-1651
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. all ages
Sunday Worship 11 a.m. • Youth Group - 5:30 p.m.
Sunday Evening Service - 6 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
Youth Group - 6:30 p.m. • Awana - 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting/Bible Study 7 p.m.
Pastor Emeritus Tom Teall
www.cbcwb.org

Edward's Community Church
4520 Greenwood Rd., West Branch
989-345-4227
Pastor Jon Scott
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Worship Service 11 a.m.
(Greenwood Rd. west of S. M-30)

New Beginnings Lutheran Church
960 S. M-33, next to Ogemaw Heights High School, West Branch, MI
Pastor Daniel Jansen
989-836-6133
Sunday Service - 9 a.m.

Hale Methodist Church
Everyone Welcome! Pastor Chad Brandt
Sunday Worship - 10am; Sunday School - 11am
Online: www.youtube.com/@HaleMCVideo
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Youth Group & Events, "Young" Women's Life Group, Women & Men's groups, etc.
201 W Main/Esmond, Hale; 989-728-9522
FB & IG: Hale Methodist Church

We LOVE when our local businesses support Ogemaw County Toys for Tots!

If you would like a Toy donation box in your business please contact Shannon at 989–915–7609 or west.branch.mi@toysfortots.org

ALL donations stay in Ogemaw County & help Ogemaw County children!

Toys, electronics, Bath & Body Works stuff, Starbucks cups, etc... are some great ideas to donate!



Trinity Episcopal Church celebrates 125 years of faith and service

BY LAURA BENDER

Trinity Episcopal Church of West Branch is one of the oldest churches in Ogemaw County. For 125 years, the congregation has been fulfilling its mission "to support all on their journey toward deeper relationship with God, one another, and all creation through worship, pastoral care, fellowship, and outreach."

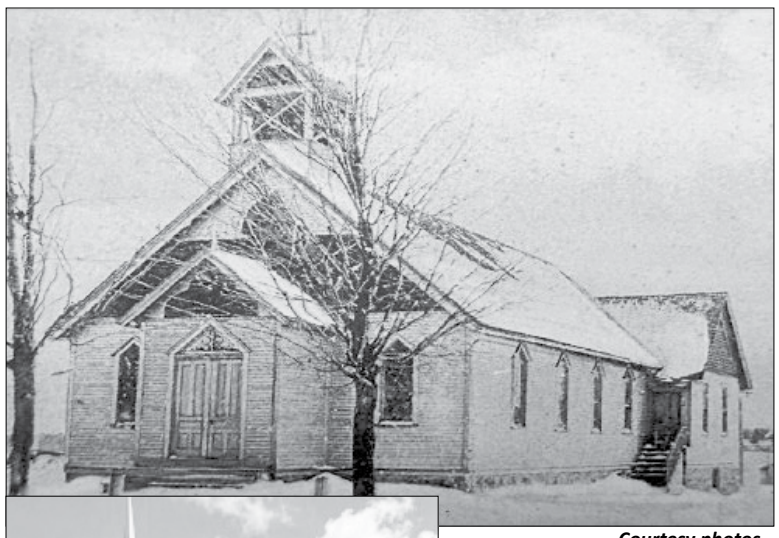
In 1901, local Episcopalians met in the Sargent Opera House and Dr. Nauman's Hall to organize a church they referred to as "St. John's Mission." Soon after, they began worshipping in the vacant Congregational Church on the corner of W. Houghton Avenue and N. Eighth Street. On Feb. 21, 1904, the new congregation held the inaugural service in its own building, which they named Trinity Episcopal Church. Eight months later, they completed construction on the rectory. The Rev. Frederick C. O'Meara and his family were the first occupants. The church building was consecrated on May 10, 1907.

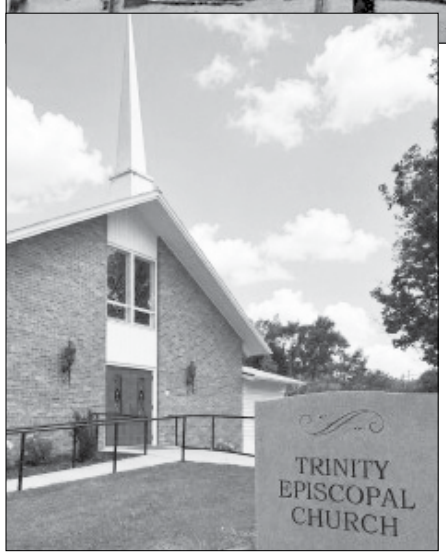
By the 1920s, the growing congregation needed more space. They built a parish hall near the brook, which was completed in 1923. Five years later, Trinity was admitted to full parish status in the Diocese of Michigan.

The 1960s brought many changes. In 1964, the original church building was condemned. While a new building was being erected to replace the old one, the congregation worshipped in its parish hall. In 1966, the rectory was relocated to its present location and placed on a new basement and foundation.

On Sept. 15, 1968, the congregation held the first service in the current church building, designed to include most of the original stained-glass windows and the original pews. They held the service of dedication on Oct. 13, 1968. Before the end of the decade, the congregation built a garage on the property and sold the parish hall to the West Branch Moose Lodge. The lodge moved the hall to State Road to use as its meeting place, and the congregation turned the empty space into a parking lot.

Improvements in the decades that followed included air conditioning, remodeled spaces within the building, renovations to the sanctuary, and enhanced landscaping.





Courtesy photos
Trinity Episcopal Church in West Branch is celebrating its 125th anniversary. The photo shows the church's original building, built in 1910, alongside the church as it stands today.

A vital presence in West Branch, Trinity Episcopal Church has engaged in numerous outreach ministries over its 125-year history. Today, its most visible offering to the community is the Ogemaw County Christian Fellowship (O.C.C.F.) Food Pantry, which began in the 1990s. Housed in the rear of the church property near the Children's Garden and the creek, this drive-through food pantry for residents of Ogemaw County is open every Wednesday morning.

The food pantry is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is completely volunteer-driven, and relies solely on donations and grants to sustain its operation.

To celebrate 125 years as a Christian worshipping community, Trinity Episcopal Church held a two-day gathering. On Saturday, Aug. 15, the fellowship hall was transformed into a beautiful garden party. Following the banquet, proclamations were received from the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes and the City of West Branch. Former priests and church elders also spoke, sharing memories and words of congratulations.

The next morning, the congregation gathered for worship in the sanctuary to praise God and give thanks for their shared history and faith. A prayer during the service began with these words:

"Gracious and loving God, we give you thanks for the gift of Trinity Episcopal Church and for the 125 years of faith, worship, fellowship, and service that we celebrate today. For generations, you have called your people to this place—to pray, to sing, to listen to your Word, to receive your grace, and to share in the joy of Christian community. We give you thanks for all who have passed through these doors: for those who built this church, for those who faithfully sustained it, and for all who have found here a place of welcome, hope, and belonging."

May the people of Trinity Episcopal Church be blessed for their faithfulness to God, to one another, and to the West Branch community as they celebrate their 125th anniversary year.

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Metcalf Park in Rose City gets a makeover

BY LAURA BENDER

Metcalf Park, located at the north end of Rose City, sits across the street from Rose City Park. Beechwood Creek flows through Metcalf and empties into Houghton Creek at the city park. A tributary of the Rifle River, the water then flows freely from Rose City to Saginaw Bay.

A long-standing feature along Beechwood Creek was the unused Sanback Dam, whose crumbling concrete structure posed an environmental hazard to the watershed. This summer, the dam was removed to reconnect a half-mile stretch of stream, allow fish and other aquatic organisms to move freely, improve 14 acres of wetland habitat, and protect more than 70 miles of downstream cold-water habitat. To ensure safety, Metcalf Park will remain closed to the public through October 2026 while restoration work continues.

During Metcalf Park's makeover, you can help re-envision its purpose and recreational infrastructure. Amanda Vanaman, the community project manager for Huron Pines, will be at the Rose City Farmers Market on Oct. 3 to gather community input. Interested residents may also share their thoughts through the online Metcalf Park Community Input Survey. Visit *https://www.huronpines.org/events/metcalf-park-community-visioning-open-house* and click on "this short survey."

Nonprofit conservation organization Huron Pines, whose mission is "conserving and enhancing Northern Michigan's natural resources to ensure healthy water, protected places and vibrant communities," shared this about the dam's history:

"Early settlers built a dam here around 1877 during the area's peak logging era… For 70 years, it powered machines that ripped logs into lumber, milled grain into flour and feed, and brought the first glow of electric lighting to the town it helped build. The dam and its industries were the town's biggest employer, with 50 workers at one time.

Charles Sanback bought the property and its industries in 1917. He rented boats to anglers who caught trout on the millpond, and he and his wife, Mary Rosebush, raised five children on the property. A fire destroyed the electric light plant and mill in 1923, leaving the town without power for two years until a new plant was built offsite. Sanback rebuilt his mill in 1925.

In 1947, Glenn Metcalf bought the operation to produce lumber, pallets, and crates for the automobile industry. A sawdust burner sparked a fire in 1955 that destroyed the mill again. Metcalf ran out of money while rebuilding, and unfinished buildings stood for decades until they were torn down.

During the removal of Sanback Dam, excavator crews turned up a number of artifacts, including bits of machinery, saw blades, hand tools, glass bottles, vehicle license plates, and the axle off a Ford Model T, each one speaking to the industrious history of this site."

As Huron Pines works to restore Beechwood Creek and assist community partners with their plans for Metcalf Park, it is also working to preserve some of the history of this site.

To share your thoughts about the future of Metcalf Park, please speak with Amanda Vanaman at the Rose City Farmers Market on Oct. 3 or take the online survey mentioned above. To learn more about this project, visit *https://www.huronpines.org/sanbackdam.*

KIWANIS CORNER



DENNY SHUMWAY

KIWANIS OF WEST BRANCH

The Kiwanis Club meets at noon on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at G's Pizzeria. Anyone interested in learning about our organization is welcome to attend. If you would like to be a guest speaker to show us what you do, email Denny at *denelaine@hotmail.com.* If you want to help the children of West Branch and around the world, we are here.

We had our first winner in Football Mania. It was a wild first week and the scores were high. Wish more of you could have joined in the fun. Our next endeavor will be joining with the Optimist Club for the Halloween activities at Surline Elementary School. Keep watching for updates.

AKTION CLUB

The Aktion Club continues to collect bottles and cans. You can email Denny at *denelaine@hotmail.com* and plan for pick up or drop off locations.

We held our annual carnival on Sept. 5 at Irons Park for children 10 and under. We had a petting zoo, also a splash bucket. Everyone had some fun. We also will be helping at the Halloween activities at Surline Elementary.

Those with special needs interested in joining our club, you must be over 18 and completed school. Our members range in age from 20 to over 60. Come on the second Wednesday of the month at noon at the First United Methodist Church on the corner of Fairview and State roads. If you want to tell us about your organization, contact Denny to arrange at *denelaine@hotmail.com.*

OGEMAW COUNTY FOOD PANTRY

We distribute boxes of food to 50 to 75 families each week. Donations of food or money help us with the influx of families. You can add to your grocery bill at Meijer Store with a card found at the checkouts or customer service. It is only $10 added to your bill to help someone in need. We will take donations every Wednesday of the month from 8:30 to 11 a.m. We are in the outreach building behind the Trinity Episcopal Church, 100 E. Houghton Ave., (OCCF), PO Box 543, West Branch. We want to thank those that have donated. If there is bad weather, text ahead to 315-725-1199 to see if we are open; we now have shelters to help us if it rains. We are open every Wednesday from 9-11 a.m. or until we run out of food. Families can come once a month. We want to thank those individual donors for their generosity at this special time. We also have several businesses to thank, Starbucks, Dollar General stores of West Branch and St. Helen, and finally KFC. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

FOOD TRUCK

The monthly food truck will be at First United Methodist Church on the corner of Fairview and State roads on Oct. 16. Line up starts at 9 a.m. This institution is an equal opportunity provider. If you have a box, bring it with you.

Ogemaw County Superior News

The *Ogemaw County Superior News* is published the second and fourth Saturdays of the month and distributed in West Branch, Rose City, Prescott, Lupton, and Skidway Lake. It is available at newsstands for 75 cents per issue or annually for $50.

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It's the Great Pumpkin – Charlie Brown



BY DEANNA SURBROOK



Apparently, eight-year-old Brian Surbrook decided the family needed a pumpkin patch—without bothering to tell Mom first. Brian secretly planted a pumpkin seed in a tiny patch of dirt RIGHT outside the front door. Mom didn't know a thing about his gardening project until the little seed had a big idea of its own. That tiny seed has now produced a 15-foot vine that has stretched across a good portion of the driveway. At this rate, we may soon need a machete just to get to the front door—and a pumpkin stand to reclaim the driveway!

Funny story.

Back in early spring, my eight-year-old son, Brian, asked if he could plant a pumpkin seed. Without giving it much thought, I said yes—but I failed to ask one very important question: Where are you going to plant it?

As the weeks passed, I completely forgot about our conversation.

Then, sometime in early summer, I noticed something growing in the small patch of dirt just outside my front door. That little spot is normally reserved for flowers, so I was curious to see what had decided to make itself at home.

Lo and behold—it was a pumpkin vine!

Apparently, Brian had taken my "yes" very seriously.

What started as a tiny seed quickly turned into a sprawling pumpkin vine. Before long, it began winding its way across the driveway.

I had to laugh. I may have forgotten giving him permission to plant a pumpkin seed, but Brian certainly hadn't.

Now, a few months later, that once-tiny vine is nearly 15 feet long and has taken over a good portion of the driveway. And the best part? There are about 10 tiny pumpkins beginning to form.

Brian couldn't be prouder.

Every time I look at that giant vine, I'm reminded that sometimes the best stories start with a simple "yes"—and a child who remembers your answer much better than you do.

I have a feeling that when those pumpkins are ready to harvest, Brian is going to be one very proud pumpkin farmer.

Perhaps that is what makes this time of year so special — watching the fruits of our summer efforts slowly come to life, knowing that the best is still to come.

There really is something special about September that is a bit magical, wonderous and full of hope.

Summer isn't quite over, but we can feel it slipping away. The days are getting a little shorter, the mornings a little cooler, and the unmistakable signs of fall are beginning to appear around Ogemaw County.

The fields are changing. Gardens are producing their final harvests. Soon, the brilliant greens of summer will give way to the reds, oranges and golds that make northern Michigan so beautiful.

For many of us, fall has always felt like a season of new beginnings.

We often think of January as the time to start over, make resolutions and set new goals. But there is something about September that feels just as much like a fresh start.

Children head back to school with new shoes, freshly sharpened pencils and backpacks that somehow seem bigger than they are. Teachers prepare their classrooms. Parents settle back into routines. Local businesses prepare for the changing season, and our community begins moving from the carefree pace of summer toward the busier months ahead.

Yet fall also gives us an opportunity to look back.

As I think about the summer that is coming to an end, I am reminded of how much community life happens here.

One of the things I appreciate most about being part of our community is the opportunity to attend so many local events throughout the year. From festivals and fairs to fundraisers, celebrations and community gatherings, each event offers a chance to see familiar faces, meet new people and experience the community spirit that makes our area special.

I feel fortunate to be able to be there, not only to cover these events, but to genuinely enjoy them with my children, Tyler, Brian and Thalia. There is something special about watching neighbors come together, supporting local organizations and businesses, and simply taking time to enjoy one another's company.

These events are more than dates on a calendar — they are part of what makes our community a great place to call home.

Years from now, we may not remember every detail of a particular summer. But we will remember the people we shared it with.

We will remember standing along the parade route. We will remember the smell of fair food, the sound of carnival rides and the excitement on a child's face. We will remember conversations with neighbors we hadn't seen in months and familiar faces we seem to run into everywhere we go.

Those simple moments are what make a community feel like home.

And now, as another season begins, perhaps we should allow ourselves a fresh start, too.

Maybe there is something we've been putting off that deserves our

PUMPKIN continues on page 5 »

Strong schools build strong communities

BY GAIL HUGHEY

A strong local school district can serve as a foundation within a community. This is especially true in northern Michigan. Our schools not only deliver an effective preK-12 education; they also serve as hubs of activity that draw our communities together.

We are proud to be a strong member of both the Rose City and West Branch communities, preparing our next generation to fill critical roles that allow our communities to thrive.

Our schools are centers of educational excellence, providing students with quality learning experiences. Well-educated individuals are more likely to contribute positively to their communities, both economically and socially.

In our schools, students receive a strong foundation of basic skills. Education continues beyond core academic subjects with personalized areas of interest, such as fine arts, career and technical education, and athletic participation. Students in the West Branch-Rose City Area Schools can gain experience in agriculture, business, construction, machining, culinary arts, and medicine. They are prepared for the current job market and able to adapt as the market changes.

When small-town schools thrive, they ensure that Northern Michigan remains not just a vacation destination, but a viable, vibrant place to live year-round.



GAIL HUGHEY
SUPERINTENDENT
WEST BRANCH-ROSE CITY SCHOOLS

If you are a resident in our school district and want to learn more about our schools and opportunities, please call our central office at 989-343-2001.

News from the Skidway Lake area



BY APRIL HARKEY-MASON

Skidway Lake area has two new "Seatow" life jackets loaner stations. Seatow is an organization that gives grants of life jackets to save lives and make boating safe easy. The grant is for the stations to be placed at boat launches. I applied for a grant with them and we were chosen. Some are approved for the post display center and jackets, but we just got the jackets.

Our Mills Township parks and recs guys built the racks we have our life jackets hanging on. One station is located at the boat launch on Skidway Lake by the boardwalk. These life jackets are bright yellow and in all different sizes. The second station is located at the Elbow Lake boat launch. We placed the Elbow Lake one close enough to the beach so the kids can grab one for swimming also. I had a message from a mom that said the kids knew how to swim but thought the life jackets were so cool they used them for swimming. A fisherman said he forgot to throw his in the boat before leaving home and it saved him a trip all the way back home to get one.

We were awarded 10 regular adult size, 10 adult XL, 14 children's rated by weight, eight infant and 12 youth size for a total of 54 life jackets. The sign at the top of the station says to borrow and return. We hope everyone will follow those rules. We also encourage donations if you have good used life jackets. To donate, just hang them on the station and they will get used.

The Seatow foundation opens the grant application once a year. You can go to their website at *https://www.boatingsafety.com* to know when the grant for next year is open. Applying for the grant is easy, you do it right online from their website. The Seatow Foundation asks you to do three reports throughout the year on how your station is doing and how your inventory is doing. Mills Township is proud to receive this grant for our community.



Courtesy photo

Mills Township recently received a grant to place loaner life jacket stations on Skidway Lake, and another at Elbow Lake.

Another reason to love Dolly Parton

BY LADONNA SCHULTZ

I first learned of Dolly Parton passing away while watching the national news. I was immediately saddened. I have always loved everything about her—her incredible talent, her personality, her generosity, and, most of all, her big heart.



LADONNA SCHULTZ

Dolly Parton's music and movies have been a big part of my life. I laughed and cried at her movies and belted out the words to her songs while driving around in the car with my friends in high school. I'm eternally grateful for her incredible voice, unforgettable songs, and all the joy her talents have given me throughout the years. I didn't think I could love her anymore, but as I started reading more about her life and her great charity work, I discovered yet another reason to admire her. Dolly was not only generous with her talents but with her time and income.

I learned about Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, a program she started in 1995 to help put books into the hands of young children. Through the program, children from birth to age five receive a new, age-appropriate book every month—free of charge, regardless of their family's income.

What began as a small effort has grown into an international literacy program, delivering hundreds of millions of books to children around the world.

And here's something I didn't know: United Way has partnered with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in communities across the country to help bring this incredible literacy program to children and families.

That partnership makes so much sense. United Way has always been about bringing people and organizations together to make a difference in their communities. Dolly's vision adds something wonderful to that mission—the simple but powerful idea that every child should have books of their own and the opportunity to discover the joy of reading.

Reading is one of the greatest gifts we can give a child. It helps children build vocabulary, develop their imagination, strengthen their ability to learn, and gain confidence as they grow. But reading is about more than learning words on a page—it opens the door to new ideas, new places, and endless possibilities. When children have books at home and someone to read with them, they are given a foundation that can benefit them throughout their entire lives. Dolly Parton has given us so much through her music and her performances, but her legacy goes far beyond the stage. She has used her success to give children something that can last a lifetime: the opportunity to read, learn, imagine, and dream.

So yes, it is heartbreaking to lose Dolly Parton as a performer. But while we may no longer see her on stage, we will never truly lose her in spirit. Her music may be part of her legacy, but so is every child who discovered the joy of reading, every family she helped, and every person inspired by her generosity. Dolly Parton and the difference she has made through her generosity give us just another reason to love her.

Maybe that's the greatest encore of all.

Pumpkin

« Continued from page 4

attention. Maybe there is someone we need to call. Maybe we need to forgive, let go, try something new or simply slow down long enough to appreciate what we already have.

New beginnings don't always have to be dramatic.

Sometimes they are as simple as turning the page.

Fall reminds us that change is inevitable, but it can also be beautiful. The trees don't cling to their leaves forever. They let go, make room for something new and, in time, begin again.

Perhaps there is a lesson in that for all of us.

As the first hints of autumn settle over Ogemaw County, I hope we take a moment to appreciate the season behind us—and look forward to the one ahead.

There will be football games, Friday night lights, school activities, harvests, hunting seasons, cider, pumpkins and colorful drives through the countryside.

There will also be new challenges, new opportunities and new memories waiting to be made.

So, here's to fall.

Here's to turning the page, embracing change and remembering that every new season gives us another opportunity to begin again.

MyMichigan Health hosting cancer screening events

As the leading breast health provider in the region, MyMichigan Health is hosting special breast cancer screening events during the month of October, with extended mammogram hours and special giveaways.

Events will take place at the following MyMichigan Medical Centers: MyMichigan Medical Center Alma on Friday, Oct. 2, from 3:50 to 5:50 p.m.; MyMichigan Medical Center Alpena on Thursday, Oct. 15, from 5 to 7 p.m.; MyMichigan Medical Center Gladwin on Saturday, Oct. 10, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.; MyMichigan Medical Center Midland on Friday, Oct. 23, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.; MyMichigan Medical Center Sault on Monday, Oct. 19, from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; MyMichigan Medical Center Standish on Wednesday, Oct. 14, from 2 to 4 p.m.; MyMichigan Medical Center Tawas on Wednesday, Oct. 21, from 2 to 4 p.m.; MyMichigan Medical Center Towne Centre in Saginaw on Wednesday, Oct. 7, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.; and MyMichigan Medical Center West Branch on Friday, Oct. 16, from 1 to 4 p.m.

"It is important that women, beginning at age 40, receive their annual mammogram," said Heather Fennell, M.D., a fellowship-trained breast surgeon with MyMichigan Health. "We are offering special screening times to make it easier and more convenient for women to schedule their mammogram, and all our mammograms use advanced 3D technology."

With 3D mammography, breast cancer can be detected at even earlier stages, helping reduce breast cancer deaths. This state-of-the-art technology allows a radiologist to see through the breast tissue layer by layer, providing multiple detailed slices, similar to flipping through pages of a book. This clearer, more comprehensive view increases the likelihood of finding cancer early.

MyMichigan Health recommends a yearly mammogram, as it is the only screening test proven to reduce breast cancer deaths. Mammograms can detect cancer early, when it is most treatable. Early detection improves survival rates and may help patients avoid extensive treatment.

Appointments are required for mammograms. Those interested in making an appointment may call the MyMichigan Access Center (MAC) at 989-633-5252. A provider's order is needed, and insurance will be billed for the mammogram. Those interested in more information about the comprehensive breast health program at MyMichigan Health may visit *www.mymichigan.org/breast.*

Music

« Continued from page 1

for more than 20 years. Currently, he offers lessons in guitar, piano, voice, drums, ukulele, trumpet and music theory. Saxophone and clarinet lessons are also available from other instructors on staff. Most lessons are individual, but some, like his rock music class, are group lessons. Lessons cost between $40 and $60 per hour, based on the student's age and experience.

"I was born in Pontiac and graduated from Holly High School," Corey said. "I began teaching guitar at Joyful Noise Music Studio in Fenton and eventually became the owner. I also own Great Lakes Music Studio in Lapeer. My wife, Kacie, is related to the Brindleys, so we had ties to Ogemaw County.

"During COVID, we moved our family here, but I still traveled to Fenton four days a week," he added. "After a few years of long commutes, I got burned out. We have five children, and my wife homeschools them. The travel was keeping me away from my family too much.

"One evening during my drive home, my wife called to tell me that one of our sons had had a seizure," he continued. "For the first time in my adult life, I began to pray. By the time I got home, I knew I had to make a change. I didn't want to give up teaching music, but I didn't know how I could continue being away from my family so much. So, I put our future in God's hands. Within two weeks, I had a job as the lead musician at Ogemaw Hills Church. Within the month, I found an available building in town and enough students to afford to open a music store. When I released control of my life and put it in God's hands, things got better. We have been blessed."

Northbound Sound is currently open Tuesday through Friday from noon until 6 p.m., with other hours by appointment. Corey teaches music during those hours and may have classes that run later. Most guitar setups and repairs are done in the West Branch store. On Mondays, Corey heads to his downstate stores to pick up or deliver instruments for rental or repair. Although he is still really busy doing what he loves, he no longer has to sacrifice family time.

Having a music store in West Branch is a real benefit to the county. Before Corey opened Northbound Sound, the closest resource for lessons, strings, reeds, drumsticks, sheet music, instrument repair, and rentals required an hour-long drive. Today, local musicians can find what they need at 109 N. Third Street in West Branch. For more information about Northbound Sound or Corey's other locations, visit *www.ajnmusic.com or https://www.facebook.com/p/Northbound-Sound-61587054734168/.* Contact Corey at 989-312-5680 or *corey@ajnmusic.com.*

Michigan's Liberty Hunt yields great harvest

BY DEANNA SURBROOK

During the recent annual Liberty Hunt, young people had the chance to experience the outdoors, learn safe hunting practices and build memories that can last a lifetime.

Eligible youth and those with qualifying disabilities, headed into the woods for the fall tradition on Sept. 12 and 13, harvesting a total of 5,260 deer statewide.

The hunt is designed to provide a special opportunity for young hunters to spend time in the woods before the regular firearm deer season. With an adult mentor by their side, youth hunters can learn about firearm safety, wildlife conservation tracking and responsible hunting.

For many families, the Liberty Hunt is about more than harvesting a deer. It is an opportunity to pass down traditions, spend time together and introduce the next generation to Michigan's outdoors.

For hunters, that first morning in the woods can become a memory treasured for years—and perhaps the beginning of a lifelong love of hunting.



Courtesy photo

Tucker Burton, 11, of West Branch bagged an impressive nine-point buck, while hunting at his grandparents property in Lupton.



Courtesy photo

Evelynn Burton, 7, of Hale harvested a nice nine-point buck on her grandparents property in Lupton, during the hunt.



Courtesy photo

Kian, 12, of Wolverine, was visiting his grandparents, Mike and Linda O'Connor, at their Ogemaw County property when he enjoyed another successful morning in the deer blind during the annual Liberty Hunt on Sept. 12 and 13. After Grandpa woke him just in time to see a nice buck, Kian took careful aim from about 70 yards away and harvested this eight-point buck with one shot. It was his second successful deer hunt in the same woods, following a seven-point buck he harvested with his dad during last year's rifle season.



Courtesy photo

Blayne Weber, 8, of Hale, proudly poses with an impressive 8-point buck he harvested in Ogemaw County during the second day of the Liberty Hunt.



Courtesy photo

With one shot, 10-year-old Aubrey McGuire, granddaughter of Peter and Samantha Fabbri of Ogemaw County, bagged this eight-point buck just across the Ogemaw-Arenac county line.



Courtesy photo

Trent Winter, 14, of Prescott, harvested this six-point buck while hunting in Prescott.

From the desk of Ogemaw County Prosecuting Attorney

School is back and so is law enforcement in our schools

BY LADONNA SCHULTZ

As students head back to school, classrooms are once again filled with the sounds of learning, laughter, and the excitement of a new school year. While teachers, administrators, and support staff focus on educating and caring for students, local law enforcement officers also play an important role in helping make our schools safe and welcoming places to learn.



LADONNA SCHULTZ
OGEMAW COUNTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

School Resource Officers, commonly known as SROs, are active in Ogemaw County schools. They provide much more than a mere law enforcement presence. They help enhance school safety, build positive relationships with students, serve as mentors, and work closely with school staff to prepare for and respond to emergencies.

In our local schools, several familiar law enforcement officers are taking on these important responsibilities.

At Whittemore-Prescott Area Schools, OCSO Deputy Tim Chmura will be returning as a full-time School Resource Officer. Ogemaw Heights High School and Rose City Elementary are staffed with OCSO Deputy Brian Gilbert Jr. Both deputies will be returning to help provide a law enforcement presence and work with students and staff to promote a safe school environment.

Ogemaw County Sheriff Brian Gilbert praised the deputies currently serving in the SRO roles, saying, "Both deputies are very dedicated to their jobs as SROs and have a very good connection

SCHOOL continues on page 8 »

West Branch angler lands 60-pound halibut in Alaska



Courtesy Photo

While visiting Homer, Alaska, Dennis Jameson of West Branch landed this impressive 60-pound, 49-inch halibut while fishing with his friend, Jim Redmond, formerly of Higgins Lake.

MyMichigan Medical Centers to host 'Wave of Light' events Oct. 15

MyMichigan Medical Centers in Alma, Midland, West Branch and Sault Ste. Marie will host the International Wave of Light at 7 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 15, an annual event that supports grieving parents and honors the babies they have lost.

Observed each year on Oct. 15 as part of International Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day, the Wave of Light brings families and communities around the world together in remembrance. At 7 p.m. local time, participants light candles or luminaries to create a continuous "wave of light" around the globe. The ceremony honors families who have experienced miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy or stillbirth, as well as those who have lost infants to sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) and other causes.

This year's recognition events will take place at 7 p.m. at the following locations:

MyMichigan Medical Center Alma — 300 E. Warwick Drive, Alma

MyMichigan Medical Center Midland — 4000 Wellness Drive, Midland

MyMichigan Medical Center West Branch — 2630 S. M-30, West Branch. A lighted walk will take place at the pavilion.

MyMichigan Medical Center Sault — 500 Osborn Boulevard, Sault Ste. Marie.

During the ceremonies, luminaries will be lit in honor and remembrance of pregnancies and infants lost but never forgotten. Those interested in additional resources for supporting someone experiencing pregnancy or infant loss may visit marchofdimes.org or parents.com or *starlegacyfoundation.org.*

Difference

« Continued from page 1

Youth across the United States raise money for these essential resources. Sometimes their giving meets the need of a specific missionary or project. At other times, the funds are combined and distributed where they are needed most. Since Speed the Light began in 1944, students have given more than $395 million to help equip missionaries. In 2025 alone, Michigan youth raised $211,617.53 through events and efforts like this one.

Why smash a car?

First, it is not something people ordinarily get the chance to do—but when the opportunity arises, nearly everyone wants to take a swing.

More importantly, transportation is one of the greatest practical needs missionaries face. Depending on where they serve, that transportation might be a car, a four-wheel-drive truck, a boat, or even a horse capable of reaching villages high in the mountains.

Speed the Light is about smashing those barriers by giving missionaries the tools they need to reach people.

Youth Director Luke Richards led a combined gathering of students and adults, with the students leading the entire service. Luke shared a dynamic message illustrating what it means to "Make Jesus Known" personally—and how much greater the impact can be when people combine their efforts around one mission.

At the service's conclusion, an anonymous donor announced that every dollar given toward the car smash would be matched, dollar for dollar, up to $1,700. Students and adults cheered before heading outside, where a non-running, salvaged 2013 Ford Escape was waiting.

The vehicle was donated by Cook's Auto Parts of Harrison and positioned on heavy-duty tarps with the assistance of a SkyTrak forklift provided by Ken Winters.

Those taking part put on protective gear and contributed a designated amount based on how long they wanted to be inside the smashing area. Then the fun began.

Hammers, sledgehammers, pickaxes, mallets, battering rams, and spray paint cans transformed the once-familiar vehicle into something barely recognizable. For nearly two hours, everyone—from the timid first timer to the enthusiastic gladiator—had an opportunity to take a swing. As the sun went down, headlights and parking-lot lights illuminated the continuing celebration.

By the end of the evening, what remained looked like a vehicle that had lost every bump-and-run competition at every county fair throughout the summer. It still had four doors, most of a roof, and something resembling a rear hatch—but no body shop would have accepted the repair job.

The car may have been crushed, but the mission moved forward.

Faith Alive Youth raised approximately $3,338 that evening, bringing its Speed the Light giving for the year to nearly $6,347 and leaving less than $700 to reach its goal.

One car. Many swings. One mission.

Who would have imagined that smashing a car could bring together so many people, create so much fun, and make such a lasting difference? Every swing helped smash a barrier and move the good news of Jesus one step closer to someone waiting to hear it.

Jim Westheim is the Missions and Ministry Strategy Pastor at Faith Alive Church in West Branch.

Outdoor Extravaganza brings families to Camp Timbers



Photo by Emily Reed

Families gathered at YMCA Camp Timbers in West Branch Saturday, Sept. 19, for a free afternoon of outdoor activities, hands-on learning and family fun. The Outdoor Extravaganza was designed to give families an opportunity to connect with nature while learning more about outdoor recreation and local natural resources. Young anglers had a chance to test their fishing skills during a youth fishing tournament. The event also offered plenty of opportunities for adventure, including access to Camp Timbers' youth climbing tower. Families could take to the water by canoe or kayak, while those looking to develop their outdoor skills could try their hand at archery or learn how to use a compass and manual GPS. The afternoon also included guided nature hikes, candle-making and arts and crafts, providing activities for visitors of all ages. Pictured Clementine, of West Branch, gives the climbing tower a try.



School

« Continued from page 7

with the students. This is necessary to maintain a safe environment. SROs in the school also build trust between students and our law enforcement officers."

At Surline Elementary and Middle Schools, students are getting to know a new face in the role of School Resource Officer. WBCPD Officer Bryce DeGammont is beginning his first year as SRO at Surline, replacing Officer Blake Beehler, who previously served in the position.

DeGammont has been a law enforcement officer for seven years and has a wealth of previous experience working with young people. Before coming to Surline, he served as a School Resource Officer and track coach at Mio Schools.

That experience gives DeGammont an understanding of the importance of connecting with students beyond the traditional role of a police officer. As a former coach and SRO, he has had the opportunity to mentor young people, encourage them, and become a trusted adult in their school community.

The role of an SRO is multifaceted. West Branch Police Chief Ken Walters emphasized the importance of having an officer present in the schools, saying, "Having an officer in the school during classes helps ensure our kids are safe."

While officers are trained to prevent and respond to school-based crime and emergencies, their work also involves developing relationships with students and staff. A familiar officer in the school can become someone students feel comfortable approaching with a concern, a question, or simply a friendly greeting in the hallway.

SROs can also play an important role in crisis management. Their knowledge of the school, familiarity with staff and students, and understanding of emergency procedures can help schools respond when unexpected situations arise.

Perhaps one of the most valuable parts of the job, however, is the opportunity to build relationships before a crisis ever occurs. When students know their local officers as people—not simply as someone in uniform—it can help create understanding and trust between young people and law enforcement. Those connections can continue beyond the school walls and strengthen the relationship between law enforcement and the entire community.

As another school year begins, we can be thankful for the teachers, administrators, support staff, bus drivers, volunteers, and first responders who work together to care for our children.

Keeping children safe is a community effort. Having law enforcement officers in our schools is one more way our community comes together to protect our students, support our educators, and help create an environment where children can learn, grow, and succeed.

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Supervisor

« Continued from page 1

as an Ogemaw County Commissioner, Pete served on several committees, including the Ogemaw County Commission on Aging, Michigan Works, Negotiations, Insurance, and NEMCSA.

The mission of the Northeast Michigan Community Service Agency (NEMCSA) is to provide practical support and tools that help people become more self-reliant and improve their quality of life. This private, nonprofit organization works to strengthen families and communities across 11 counties in Northeast Michigan. A member of the board since 2005, Pete has served as president for the last 15 years. Two of his favorite NEMCSA programs are Weatherization and the Area Agency on Aging. He also works with the Presbyterian Villages of Michigan (PACE), which assists elderly residents so that they may receive the care they need while remaining in their homes. These commitments provide Pete with an intimate understanding not just of the needs of his community, but also of the resources available to address these needs.

Outside of work and volunteering, Pete enjoys attending sporting events, NASCAR races, NFL games, deer hunting (rifle), and concerts. His eclectic musical taste encompasses everything from 1970s rock to today's hip-hop. Pete also likes to travel. "Toes in the sand" in the Caribbean is his favorite destination, although in the last few years, he has made six trips to Alaska to visit his brother's family. Pete has an 18-year-old son, Peter, and a daughter, Lyllyann, who is 13.

As Pete begins his time as the Mills Township supervisor, he says an area of focus will be the condition of the roads.

"Ninety percent of the complaints we receive concern the roads," Pete said. "There are other issues we need to look at, too. I want to get right to work so we can build on the momentum already in place in the township. I am thankful that our community has invited me to work on their behalf."

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CITY OF ROSE CITY REGULAR MEETING MINUTES JULY 21, 2026

Mayor Mike Samples called the Regular Council Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
Present: Don Freeman, Robin Micklich, Claire Myers, Scott Hamel, Brent Hinkley
Absent: Ashley Herrick (excused)
Others present: Clerk Jennifer Hurley, Treasurer Carol Lee Butler, Police Chief Allen Muma, DPW Co-Supervisor Anthony Evans, Theresa Erickson, County Commissioner Roger Mayhew, Rhonda Barnhart and Kathy Curtis.
Council approved the agenda with the addition of RCACC.
Council approved the minutes.
Council approved the bills.
Claire Myers gave an Election Committee report.
Brent gave a Fire Board meeting report.
Theresa Erickson gave an EDC report.
County Commissioner Roger Mayhew addressed the council.
Anthony Evans gave a DPW report.
Council approved the red truck and plow to be put up for bids.
Police Chief Allen Muma gave a report.
Carol Lee Butler gave a Treasurer's report.
Clerk gave a report.
Rhonda Barnhart addressed the council.
Kathy Curtis addressed the council.
Meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

CITY OF ROSE CITY REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 5, 2026

Mayor Mike Samples called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
Present: Robin Micklich, Claire Myers, Scott Hamel, Ashley Herrick, Brent Hinkley
Absent: Don Freeman (excused)
Others present: Clerk Jennifer Hurley, Treasurer Carol Lee Butler, DPW Co-Supervisor Anthony Evans, Theresa Erickson, Brenda Butler and Chase Wiltse.
Council approved the agenda.
Council approved the minutes.
Council approved the bills.
Chase Wiltse gave a DDA/Planning Committee report.
Anthony Evans gave a DPW report.
Carol Lee Butler gave a Treasurer's report.
The Clerk updated the council.
Council approved the split of parcel #051-107-008-00.
Council approved the move of parcels per certified description.
Meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

CITY OF ROSE CITY REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 18, 2026

Mayor Mike Samples called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
Present: Don Freeman, Robin Micklich, Claire Myers, Scott Hamel, Brent Hinkley
Absent: Ashley Herrick (excused)
Others present: Clerk Jennifer Hurley, Treasurer Carol Lee Butler, DPW Co-Supervisor Anthony Evans, County Commissioner Roger Mayhew, Brenda Butler, Amy Hensel and Chase Wiltse.
Council approved the agenda.
Council approved the minutes.
Council approved the bills.
Claire gave a Parks and Recs Committee report.
Claire gave an Ordinance Committee report.
Claire gave a Library Committee report.
Brent gave a Fireboard report.
Roger Mayhew gave a County Commissioner report.
Anthony Evans gave a DPW report.
Carol Lee Butler gave a Treasurer's report.
The Clerk updated the council.
Council approved the Purchase Agreement with correction to Paragraph 2 & grammatical correction.
Meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

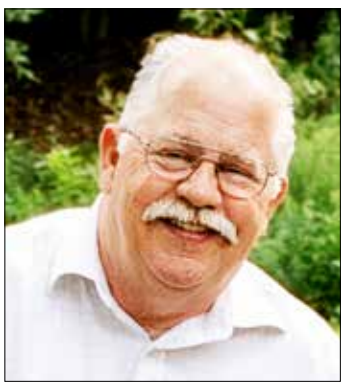
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Obituaries

Craig Buchoz

April 8, 1951 – Sept. 14, 2026

Craig Buchoz, 75, passed away on Monday, Sept. 14, 2026, in West Branch, Mich., surrounded by his loving family.



Craig was born on April 8, 1951, in Grand Rapids, Mich., to Roy A. Buchoz II and Doris June (Cutler) Buchoz. He spent part of his childhood in California before later moving to Houghton Lake, where he graduated from Houghton Lake High School in 1969. He went on to earn an associate's degree in business from Kirtland Community College.

On Oct. 11, 1986, Craig married the love of his life, Tammy Marie Turner, in West Branch. Together they built a beautiful life centered around family and created countless memories throughout nearly 40 years of marriage.

Craig proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy for four years during the Vietnam era and later continued his service in the U.S. Navy Reserves. Throughout his working years, many in the community came to know Craig as a friendly and familiar face at Glen's Grocery Stores in Rose City and West Branch. He later worked as a Business Liaison for Michigan Works in West Branch, where he remained until his retirement.

Craig lived an active and engaged life, with interests that reflected both his community spirit and his appreciation for life's simple pleasures. He was a member of St. Stephen of Hungary Catholic Church in Prescott and the Knights of Columbus Council No. 2022 in West Branch. He was also a member of the West Branch Lions Club.

Craig enjoyed golfing, bowling, camping, cheering on the Detroit Tigers and Detroit Lions, and listening to his favorite band, Journey. Above all else, though, he loved spending time with his family. His wife, children, and grandchildren were the center of his life and, without question, his proudest accomplishment.

Craig had a generous heart and was always willing to lend a hand. If someone needed something—anything—he would do his best to help however he could. He had a great sense of humor and an infectious laugh that those who knew him will never forget. He loved making people laugh, sharing stories, and simply enjoying the company of those around him.

Craig is survived by his beloved wife, Tammy Buchoz; his children, Lexie (Nick) Fox, of Midland; Darcy (Justin) Bos, of Kalamazoo; and Derek (Shannon) Buchoz, of Kaleva. He will also be lovingly remembered by his brother, Tim Buchoz of Apple Valley, Calif.; his grandchildren, Rylee, Sawyer, Cooper, Jaxon, and Nora; and many nieces, nephews, extended family members, and friends who were part of the circle of people he cherished.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Doris June Butler; his father, Roy A. Buchoz II; his stepfather, Lawrence Butler; his infant sister, Roianne Buchoz; his mother-in-law, Geraldine A. Turner; and his father-in-law, Billie Lee E. Turner.

A Memorial Mass will be celebrated at St. Stephen of Hungary Catholic Church in Prescott on Oct. 17 at 11 a.m. with a luncheon to follow. Craig will later be laid to rest with military honors at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, Mich.

Memorial contributions are suggested to the Compassus Hospice team of West Branch in gratitude for the compassionate and wonderful care they provided to Craig and his family during his final days.

Jody Lynn Dantzer

Jan. 18, 1975 – Sept. 11, 2026

Jody Lynn Dantzer passed away peacefully on Friday, Sept. 11, 2026, in Detroit, Mich., surrounded by her girls and her husband after a hard-fought battle with cancer. She was 51 years old.



Born on Saturday, Jan. 18, 1975, in West Branch to Jeffery Anderson and Norma (Diehl) Pennington, Jody will be remembered as a fun-loving woman whose greatest joy was found in her family.

Jody was a graduate of Ogemaw Heights High School, class of 1993. She continued her education at Lansing Community College, where she earned an associate's degree in early childhood development. She worked as a dedicated Family Support Specialist with District Health Department no. 2 in West Branch, serving others with care and commitment.

Outside of her work, Jody embraced life fully. She enjoyed camping, boating, spending time at the beach, and playing and watching sports. She especially loved watching her children grow and took great pride in cheering them on at their sporting events. Her most recent passion was caring for her treasured grandchildren, helping them grow and learn, and spending every moment possible with them.

Above all, Jody treasured her family. She is survived by her beloved husband and high school sweetheart, John Dantzer; her daughters, Alyssa Rodriguez and her husband, Isaiah; Ashlyn Nelson and her husband, Ryan; and Ally Dantzer and Nathan Woletz; her mother, Norma Pennington and her husband, Steve; her brothers, Michael Anderson; Brandan Pennington and his wife, Brittany; and Jason Pennington and his wife, Alina; her sister, Jessica Gilbert and her husband, Brian; her sister-in-law, Stephanie Holton and her husband, Thomas; and her father-in-law and mother-in-law, Larry and Eileen Dantzer.

She also leaves behind her cherished grandchildren, Kohler Rodriguez, Stevie Rodriguez, Lennyn Nelson, and Kix Nelson, who were a special source of joy in her life. Jody is further survived by her nieces and nephews, Ethan, Alivia, Emma, Brady, Lucius, Aaliyah, Emily, and Tanner, along with many other loved ones who will carry her memory forward with love.

Jody was preceded in death by her father, Jeffery Anderson; her daughter, Arika Dantzer; her niece, Brylee Pennington; and her grandparents, Howard and Helen Diehl, and Rex and Betty Lou Anderson.

Jody's life was marked by devotion to her family, dedication to her work, an unwavering zest for life, and a spirit that brought an unforgettable warmth to those around her. Her memory will live on in the many lives she touched and in the love and compassion she shared so freely.

A Celebration of Life took place on Thursday, Sept. 24, 2026, at Faith Alive Church in West Branch.

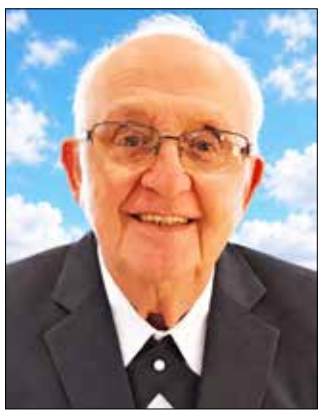
In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested to Faith Alive Kingdom Builders.

Arrangements were handled by Steuernol & McLaren Funeral Home in West Branch, Mich., *www.steuernolmclaren.com.*

James Lee Jacobs

Sept. 7, 2026

James Lee Jacobs, affectionately known as Jim, passed away at the age of 92, on Monday, Sept. 7, 2026, at his home in West Branch, Mich., with his wife by his side.



Jim was born in Rochester Hills, Mich., to Chester and Elizabeth Jacobs. He grew up in the nearby town of Davisburg. He graduated from High School in 1950 and received his diploma from Oakland County Schools.

Jim worked at Herks Auto Supply in Pontiac for much of his youth and developed a love for automobiles, especially Fords. While later working at Flannerys Ford Dealership as their service manager, he met his late wife, Elise. They were married for over 30 years.

Jim will be remembered for the things he enjoyed most and for the steadfast way he lived his life. He was an avid Ford man. That enthusiasm extended into a long-time appreciation for classic vehicles. Over the years he maintained a 1979 Ford Bronco, a 1979 Ford F-150 pickup truck, multiple T-Birds, and a Diecast Car collection of over 200 models. His interests reflected both his loyalty and his delight in the details of the things he loved.

Jim was an active member at Calvary Baptist Church of West Branch and most recently, Bible Believers Baptist Church of Tawas City. Jim's love for the Lord was exhibited in his willingness to serve him and others. Jim met his wife, Louella, at Calvary Baptist Church, and they celebrated 14 years of marriage together.

Jim is survived by his wife, Louella. Although Jim had no children of his own, he was the loving uncle, dad, and grandpa to 22 nieces and nephews, six step-children, 14 grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. Jim's memory will live on in the hearts of his family and all that knew him.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents, Chester and Elizabeth; his late wife, Elsie, and his seven siblings, John, Glenn, Bill, Chet, Eddie, Ruby, and Mary.

Visitation was held at Steuernol & McLaren Funeral Home in West Branch on Thursday, Sept. 17 and the funeral service was held at the funeral home on Friday, September 18. Burial followed at Calvary Baptist Cemetery in West Branch.

Memorial contributions can be made to the family.

Online condolences can be shared at *www.steuernolmclaren.com*

Judith Kay Hensley

Feb. 28, 1943 – Sept. 20, 2026

Judith Kay Hensley, née Tidball, passed away on Sunday, Sept. 20, 2026, at her home in West Branch, with her daughters by her side at the age of 83. Born on Feb. 28, 1943, in Flint, Mich., Judith will be remembered with love for the warmth she shared with her family and for the simple joys that brought happiness to her life.



Judith lived in West Branch for 20 years and was formerly of Flint, Mich. She enjoyed RV traveling, knitting, and playing Texas hold'em. She loved music, especially oldies, and found great happiness in the moments she spent with those she loved most. More than anything, spending time with her family meant the most to her, and that devotion remained at the heart of her life.

She is survived by her daughters, Susan Hensley of Flint, Mich., and Traci Hensley of Niagara Falls, New York. She is also survived by her siblings and their families: Ron and Jackie Tidball; Ronnie Tidball; Shannon and Chad Smith; Hannah and Alyssa Smith; Sandy Tidball; Cindy Topous; John and Glenda Tidball; and Lea Tidball; and her cat, Snickers. Their lives, along with the many family memories they shared, were an important part of Judith's life and will continue to carry her memory forward.

Judith was preceded in death by her husband, Laurence Hensley; her father, John Tidball; her mother, Marguerite Tidball, née Melzow; and her brother, Bob Tidball.

Judith will be remembered for her love of family, her enjoyment of life's pleasures, and the special place she held in the hearts of those who knew her. Her memory will remain a lasting blessing to her family and friends.

Cremation has taken place, and no services have been scheduled.

Arrangements were handled by Steuernol & McLaren Funeral Home in West Branch. *www.steuernolmclaren.com.*

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